

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

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R 071728Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4279

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY QUITO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 5440

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BO, VE, PE, CI

SUBJECT: CHILE-BOLIVIA-PERU RELATIONS

REF: A) SANTIAGO 5304 B) LIMA 6226

1. SUMMARY: GOC IS TRYING TO TREAT 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF BOLIVIAN INDEPENDANCE AS JUST ANOTHER LA CELEBRATION. CHILEANS ARE IRRITATED BY WHAT THEY SEE AS ATTEMPT TO FORCE THEIR HAND IN NEGOTIATIONS ON BOLIVIAN CORRIDOR TO SEA, AND WORRIED THAT THEIR ENEMIES AND LUKEWARM FRIENDS IN LATIN AMERICA MAY BE GANGING UP ON THEM. END SUMMARY.

2. FONMIN DIRECTOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS JORGE BERGUNO TOLD ADCM AUGUST 5 THAT MINISTRY FEARS A LA CONSENSUS MAY BE FORMING ON BOLIVIAN CORRIDOR TO THE SEA THAT COULD UNFAVORABLY AFFECT CHILEAN INTERESTS. FONMINISTRY BELIEVES THAT A QUESTION INVOLVING SOVEREIGNTY IS TOO IMPORTANT TO BE HANDLED WITHOUT FULL AND CAREFUL CONSIDERATION. REFERRING TO OAS PERMANENT COUNCIL'S DECLARATION ON BOLIVIA'S LAND-LOCKED POSITION, AND THE EVIDENT EFFORT OF VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT PEREZ TO TAKE BOLIVIA'S SIDE IN A QUESTION OF SO MUCH IMPORTANCE TO CHILE, CONFIDENTIAL

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BERGUNO SAID GOC REFUSES TO BE PUSHED. AT SAME TIME, GOC WANTS

TO KEEP BOLIVIAN DESIRE FOR CORRIDOR FROM AFFECTING ADVERSELY
THE CHILE-BOLIVIA-PERU RELATIONSHIP.

3. BERGUNO SAID THAT CHILEAN REPRESENTATIVE TO BOLIVIAN
150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION IN LA PAZ, CHIEF NATIONAL DEFENSE
STAFF GENERAL SERGIO ARELLANO, HAS INSTRUCTIONS TO TELL PERUVIAN
REP WHAT BERGUNO HAD MENTIONED TO EMBOFF JULY 29 (REF A,
PARA 3): CHILE WILL CONSULT PERU AS SOON AS IT HAS SOMETHING
DEFINITE TO TALK ABOUT. BERGUNO DOUBTED THAT ANY STATEMENT ON
THE CORRIDOR WOULD EMERGE FROM LA PAZ CELEBRATION.

4. IN EVIDENT ATTEMPT AT LOW KEY APPROACH, PRESIDENT PINOCHET'S
CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT BANZER WAS SHORT, PRO-FORMA,
AND NON-SUBSTANTIVE.

5. CHILEAN PRESS HAS GIVEN CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION TO BOLIVIAN
QUESTION IN PAST DAYS. SENSATIONALIST "LA SEGUNDA" AUGUST 5
REPORTED WHAT SOUNDED LIKE ACERBIC FONMINISTRY PRIVATE COMMENT
TO EFFECT THAT IF PRESIDENT PEREZ INSISTED ON OFFERING TO MEDIATE
BETWEEN CHILE AND BOLIVIA, CHILE WOULD OFFER ITS GOOD OFFICES
ON QUESTION OF VENEZUELAN-COLOMBIAN BORDER. FONMINISTRY SPOKESMAN
TOLD PRESS THAT MINISTRY KNEW NOTHING OF SUCH A COMMENT, AND FONMIN
UNDER SECRETARY VALDES COMMENTED SIMILARLY TO AMBASSADOR. IN
ADDITION, GOVERNMENT PRESS SPOKESMAN NOTED POLITELY THAT THERE
WAS NO OFFICIAL INFORMATION ON PEREZ' REPORTED OFFER OF GOOD
OFFICES.

6. SANTIAGO PRESS CARRIED WIRE SERVICE STORY FROM LA PAZ ON
GENERAL ARELLANO. IN REPLY TO BOLIVIAN STATEMENTS ABOUT RESOLVING
CORRIDOR PROBLEM BY 1980, ARELLANO REPORTEDLY SAID GOC HAS
FIXED NO TIME LIMIT, SINCE TO DO SO WOULD RAISE RISK OF TOO
LONG OR TOO SORT LIMITS. ALSO SAID
THAT IF ANOTHER COUNTRY (I.E., 0347) NEEDED TO BE CONSULTED ON
CHILEAN-BOLIVIAN NEGOTIATIONS, IT WOULD BE DONE AT APPROPRIATE
TIME, SINCE CHILE LOYALLY CARRIES OUT ITS TREATY COMMITMENTS.

7. COMMENT: CHILEANS ARE CONCERNED AND IRRITATED THAT LA
COUNTRIES NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED SEEM TO BE TAKING SIDES AGAINST
GOC AND PRESSING IT TO GO FURTHER AND QUICKER THAN IT WANTS.
THE CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES TO BOLIVIA REPORTEDLY SENT BY
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VENEZUELA, COLOMBIA AND PANAMA, WENT CONSIDERABLY BEYOND VAGUE
LANGUAGE ON BOLIVIA'S PROBLEM CONTAINED IN DECEMBER AYACUCHO
DECLARATION. CHILEANS DO NOT WANT TO BE PUSHED ON THIS POINT,
AND THEY ARE ALSO WORRIED THAT OAS IS GETTING INTO THE ACT.

8. PRESENT GOC HAS CONCENTRATED ON IMPROVING ITS RELATIONS WITH
ITS SOUTHERN CONE NEIGHBORS AND WITH OTHER KEY COUNTRIES OF LA.
IT WOULD LIKE TO PRESERVE IN INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM SOME BASE OF

SUPPORT IN ITS CONFRONTATION WITH MOST OF THE REST OF THE WORLD.
APPARENT BUILDING OF LA CONSENSUS AGAINST CHILE ON BOLIVIAN ISSUE,
THEREFORE, MAY HAVE IMPLICATIONS FOR GOC THAT GO BEYOND THE ALREADY
IMPORTANT QUESTION OF CHILEAN SOVEREIGNTY OVER PART OF
ITS NORTHERN FRONTIER AREA.

9. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE INFORMATION ON GENESIS OF OAS
PERMANENT COUNCIL STATEMENT, AND DEPARTMENT'S ESTIMATE OF
SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS OAS ACTION. POPPER

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